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PREZ SEEKS SPECIAL PROSECUTOR FOR IRAN SCANDAL

WASHINGTON — President Reagan tried to put the brakes on the Iran arms scandal yesterday by speeding the appointment of a Watergate-style special prosecutor to probe "illegal acts."

Reagan, moving quickly to put his foreign-policy team back on track, also named Frank Carlucci, a widely respected veteran of the CIA and the Pentagon, as his new national security adviser.

The President also called on Congress to consolidate its investigations of the affair, suggesting the appointment of a special Watergate-style committee.

"Since the outset of the controversy over our policy relating to Iran, I've done everything in my power to make all the facts concerning this matter known to the American people," Reagan said in an unusual nationally televised address from the Oval Office yesterday afternoon.

"I can appreciate why some of these things are difficult to comprehend and you're entitled to have your questions answered. And that is why I've pledged to get to the bottom of this matter," Reagan said.

The address was Reagan's third appearance on national television since the Iran affair was disclosed one month ago, creating the worst crisis of his presidency.

In his announcement yesterday, Reagan said a preliminary in-

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vestigation by Attorney General Edwin Meese had turned up "reasonable grounds" for believing that federal laws had been violated.

"I immediately urged him to apply to the court here in Washington for an independent counsel," Reagan said.

By law, such a counsel, formerly known as a special prosecutor, must be selected and appointed by a panel of three federal judges, rather than by the executive branch.

National security adviser John Poindexter and an aide, Lt. Col. Oliver North, were booted from the NSC staff last week.

In other developments:

● The Senate Intelligence Committee completed its second day of closed-door hearings on the arms deal and heard about 20 minutes of sworn testimony from Poindexter.

Sources said Poindexter was required to testify under oath because he gave mis-

leading statements to congressional committees last month about the extent of U.S. government involvement in the Iran affair.

North invoked the Fifth Amendment 40 times during his testimony Monday before the same committee.

● CIA Director William Casey came under increasing congressional pressure yesterday to resign because he allegedly gave misleading briefings about his role early in the scandal.

● The Post has learned that the Justice Dept. has formally instructed the CIA, the

White House and the State and Defense Depts. to turn over all documents in their files relating to the activities of five men who may have been involved in the money laundering scheme.

The five are former national security adviser Robert McFarlane; National Security Council aides Donald Fortier, who died of cancer last summer, and Cmdr. Paul Thompsons; Adolfo Calero, leader of a Nicaraguan rebel group, and retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Richard Secord.

The selection of Carlucci, a career diplomat who became a professional government troubleshooter for four presidents, was widely hailed in Washington.

White House sources told The Post that Carlucci was pushed by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and CIA Director Casey over modest objections from White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan and Secretary of State George Shultz.

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